

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

20 May 1964

INDEX

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

1. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service
Federal Office Building No. 5 - Revised Design 1-2
2. District of Columbia Government, Department of Bldgs. and grounds
 - a. West End Branch Library-Revised Design 2
 - b. New Elementary School, Wheeler Road & Mississippi Avenue, N.E.-Proposed Design 3
 - c.
3. Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission
Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial - Revised Design 3-5
4. Department of the Navy, Public Works Office
U.S.Naval Research Laboratory, Sector Focusing Cyclotron Building-Proposed Design 5-6

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

20 May 1964

The Commission met, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 a.m., with William Walton, Chairman, presiding.

Present were: Members: William Walton
Burnham Kelly
Gordon Bunshaft
John Carl Warnecke

Staff: L.R. Wilson, Secretary
C.H. Atherton, Asst. Sec'y
C.L. Martin, Counsel
Myra Younker, Editor
Leone Vialpando, Reporter

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

1. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service

✓ Federal Office Building No. 5 - Revised Design

Mr. J. Rowland Snyder, Director, Design Division, Public Buildings Service, Mr. Nathaniel Curtis, architect of Curtis & Davis, Mr. Bernard J. Grad, A. Grant Fordyce, and David Dibner, architects, met with the Commission to discuss a revised redevelopment scheme for the building.

Mr. Curtis explained the new scheme from elevation and site plans and a scale model. Under the new plan the building along Independence Avenue would be four stories high, 660 feet long and 120 feet wide. To the rear of this building an 8-story doughnut-shaped building would be located in the southeast quarter of the site. A one-story cafeteria building would be located on the southwest quarter of the site. The buildings would rest on a two-level plaza. The first level would be approximately 3 feet above the level of Independence Avenue. A second plaza, one story higher, would be at an elevation approximately 18 feet higher than the Avenue. The first plaza would extend under the long building, which is raised approximately 40 feet, to within 40 feet of the rear building. The second level would form the main entrance to the building where it extends beneath the Independence Avenue building from the rear buildings.

It was proposed that the upper part of the Independence Avenue building would be supported on a series of columns spaced at 60 foot intervals lengthwise and 40 foot intervals through the width. Precast concrete panels measuring 20' x 12' would make up the exterior walls. The interior court of the doughnut shaped building would have the same panel treatment

whereas the exterior would be of solid masonry without windows.

In the general discussion the members expressed their approval of the general concept of the building. They discussed a number of details of the design which they thought should have further study. It was suggested that the light wells on the first level of the plaza should be reduced in size and that consideration be given to a monumental stairway leading from the lower level to the upper level. The members recommended that the parapet of the Independence Avenue building should be strengthened by widening it to give a better ending to the building near the skyline. Because of the immense size of the rear building and the fact that it would have no exterior windows the members thought the architectural treatment of exterior walls of this building should be carefully studied. They suggested that the architects consider methods to give the surfaces a textured treatment such as fluting or by recalling the 20-foot module pattern to be used in the Independence Avenue building. Finally, because the success of the design would depend upon the appearance of the two plazas, they strongly recommended that a landscape architect be brought into the planning process as soon as possible.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter giving the Commission's views. EXHIBIT A

2. District of Columbia Government, Department of Buildings and Grounds

✓ a. West End Branch Library - Revised Design

Mr. Gerald A. Purcell, Liaison Officer of the District Department of Buildings and Grounds, and Mr. Albert Goenner, architect, presented a revised design of the building. Mr. Goenner showed the members a scale model and plans of the revised design and explained the changes which had been made as a result of the conference held with Mr. Warnecke.

In general the members thought the changes to the design had greatly improved the appearance of the building. They suggested a number of further changes such as the possibility of incorporating the vertical columns in the upper story into the structural system of the building and making them flush with the roof and second floor line; making the treatment of the second story of the north elevation the same as the other three elevations; relocation of the chimney within the mass of the building; and carrying the high window shown on the north and east elevations all the way around the building. They also suggested that the proposal to locate hawthorn trees in public space on three sides of the building be given further study and review.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter giving the Commission's views. EXHIBIT B

✓ b. New Elementary School, Wheeler Road and Mississippi Ave., N.E. - Proposed Design

Mr. Purcell, and Mr. Loren L. Murray, architect of Johannes & Murray, presented a proposed design for the new elementary school. Mr. Purcell stated that the entire site consisted of approximately four acres, of which the school would occupy 50% of the land and 50% would be utilized for recreational purposes.

After hearing Mr. Murray's explanation of the design of the building the members questioned him about the reason for placing the school at the foot of the hilly lot rather than on the northern end. It appeared that the principal reason was the belief that the upper area was more suited for recreation purposes. It also developed that the siting of the building had been at the direction of the school board of the District.

The members of the Commission were of the opinion that the proposed site of the building at the foot of a hill and adjacent to a busy street was a poor use of the land. They pointed out that if the building were located on top of the hill a more flexible plan could be developed since a large amount of the building walls would not be required to also serve as retaining walls. Mr. Murray replied that he somewhat agreed with the idea that locating the building on the hill might be better, but that he had been given a prospectus which included the location of the principal elements of the building, the amount of play areas, etc. by the Board of Education and was employed to design a building to meet those standards.

The Commission was unable to fully discuss the project because of other projects on the agenda. They asked that the architect return with the plans in the future.

3. Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission
✓ Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial - Revised Design

Mr. William Pedersen, Mr. Joseph Wasserman, Mr. David Beer, architects, Mr. Norman Hoberman, sculptor, Mr. Francis Biddle, Chairman, and Mr. James Rowe, member of the Roosevelt Memorial Commission, presented a revised design for the memorial.

Prior to the discussion of the design, Mr. Biddle stated that on the basis of an article which had been written by the Chairman which had appeared in the New York Times he wished to make a record of his objections to the Chairman sitting in on the discussion. He quoted several paragraphs in the article which were comments on the prizewinning design, and stated that he had concluded from these remarks that the Chairman was strongly opposed to the design and asked that he disqualify himself so as to allay any impression that the matter had been pre-judged. He added that Mr. Rowe

and Rep. Eugene Keogh, members of the Memorial Commission, shared his views and had written the Chairman to that effect. He then asked if Mr. Walton had changed his position on the matter since ^{he} had written Mr. Biddle on May 14, 1964 that the sentences in the Times article had been misinterpreted. The Chairman replied:

"I recognize your appeal. I have held from the beginning that you have misinterpreted ~~my~~ written remarks, I was referring to the first design very clearly. The Commission has in a group re-read the two quotations and agreed with me that I was clearly referring to the first design and not to any design that is now being submitted to us or which will be submitted to us. With the full support of my Commission, I decline to disqualify myself and assure the Memorial Commission that it will get a very free, unbiased public hearing on this design or any other design that is presented to us."

The transcript of this portion of the meeting is EXHIBIT C.

Mr. Pedersen introduced into the record a written statement by the architects regarding the redesign of the memorial. EXHIBIT D. He stated that redesign of the memorial was based upon the solution of two basic problems - a reconsideration of the scale of the memorial to relate it to the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials, and the incorporation of a statue of Franklin Delano Roosevelt which had been requested by the Memorial Commission.

Mr. Hoberman then explained the proposed solutions to the problems described by Mr. Pedersen using drawings, photographs and scale models. In his description Mr. Hoberman stated that the architects had kept the same character of elements which were in the first design; that the sequence and character of the spaces between the vertical elements had been changed in order to develop a space of such character that the statue of President Roosevelt could fit within the memorial. In regard to the height of the stela he stated that the highest stele had been reduced 37 feet from the 167 feet in the first design to an elevation of 138.9 feet above water, which is approximately one foot below the height of the Lincoln Memorial. Mr. Hoberman then showed the members a number of photographs of the site taken from various positions with a replica of the new design superimposed upon them.

Following his presentation the members questioned Mr. Hoberman about various aspects of the design. It was brought out that in the redesign of the memorial the shapes of all the stela had been changed, although the changes were subtle and not readily apparent without close comparison with the original design. The number of the stela was the same as in the first design, although they were in somewhat different positions in relation to one another. The memorial would cover slightly less ground than in the first design - the basic dimension was reduced from 320 feet through the long axis to approximately 280 feet. The statue of President

Roosevelt would be three times life size, or 18 feet high. Mr. Biddle stated that some thought had been given to a small, closed competition to select the sculptor to execute the design of the statue.

Mr. Pedersen stated that the architects were of the opinion that the material of construction should be precast concrete, and that if the design were approved he anticipated a large number of samples would have to be prepared to meet the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts. A similar process would be followed in regard to the lettering on the stelae.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Chairman announced that the Commission would retain the models and other material until the June meeting at which time the decision of the members would be made known.

A transcript of the presentation is EXHIBIT E.

4. Department of the Navy, Public Works Office

✓ U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, Sector Focusing Cyclotron Building - Proposed Design

Lt. William Burdick of the Area Public Works Office, Mr. Louis Rosetti and Mr. Raymond Hockburn, architects of Giffels & Rosetti, presented a proposed design for the project.

Mr. Rosetti began the presentation by stating that his firm had been given "definitives" or layouts by the Department of the Navy which determined the site, limits of the building and its use, plus a complete set of elevations, and were instructed to prepare a set of working drawings etc. and to "...dress up the building from what the definitives showed." He then showed the members drawings and a perspective of the building.

In the general discussion the members first asked why the building had been placed diagonally on the site rather than in line with the streets. Mr. Robert Plavnick, Chief of Federal Projects Planning, National Capital Planning Commission, explained that the placement of the building had been dictated by the projected plan for the development of a future Potomac River crossing right of way located immediately north of the site of the Cyclotron building. After hearing Mr. Plavnick's explanation the members agreed that the siting was reasonable under the circumstances.

In regard to the architecture of the building the members noted that the building consisted of two principal elements - a large square block structure which would house the cyclotron equipment, and an attached two-story wing which would contain offices and small laboratories. They thought that the appearance of the building would be improved if these two elements were treated as two distinct and contrasting forms - the block structure

as one mass with textured concrete walls and the office wing in a more open manner with large areas of glass.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter setting forth the Commission's recommendations. EXHIBIT F

Thereafter, at 12:30 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. L. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "C" and a distinct "L".

C. L. Martin
Counsel

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
20 May 1964

AM

9:30

I. CONVENE, ROOM 7000, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

II. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

9:35

1. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service

Federal Office Building No. 5 - Revised Design

(Mr. Karel H. Yasko, Assistant Commissioner of Design and Construction, PBS; Mr. J. Rowland Snyder, Director, Design Division, PBS; Mr. James Jones, PBS; Mr. Nathaniel Curtis, Jr., Curtis & Davis, Associates; Mr. Bernard J. Grad, of Frank Grad & Sons; Mr. A. Grant Fordyce, of Fordyce & Hamby, Associates; Mr. David Dibner, of Fordyce & Hamby, Associates)

10:30

2. District of Columbia Government, Department of Buildings and Grounds

a. West End Branch Library, Revised Design

(Mr. G.A. Purcell, Liaison Officer, D.C. Department of Buildings and Grounds; Mr. Albert Goenner, architect)

b. New Elementary School, Wheeler Road and Mississippi Avenue, N.E. - Proposed Design

(Mr. Purcell; representative of Johannes & Murray, architects)

11:00

3. Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial - Revised Design

(Mr. Francis Biddle, Chairman, Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission; Mr. William F. Pedersen, Mr. Bradford S. Tilney, Mr. Norman Hoberman, Mr. Joseph Wasserman, Mr. David Beer, architects)

11:45

4. Department of the Navy, Public Works Office

U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, Sector Focusing Cyclotron Building - Proposed Design

(Mr. Rosetti, Mr. Hockburn, Captain Enger, Lt. Burdick, Area Public Works Office; Mr. Nelson, Bureau of Yards & Docks)

12:15

5. Smithsonian Institution

National Zoological Park, Phase III - Revised Designs

(Mr. James Bradley, Assistant Secretary, Smithsonian Institution; Dr. Theodore Reed, Director, National Zoological Park; Mr. James Blaser, Director, D.C. Dept. of Bldgs. & Grounds; Mr. G.A. Purcell; Mr. David Dimon, Architect)

LUNCH

2:00

6. National Capital Downtown Committee, Inc.

Plan for Downtown Redevelopment

(Mr. Knox Banner, Executive Director; Mr. Melvin Levine, Chief Planner, National Capital Downtown Committee)

ADJOURN

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

WILLIAM WALTON, Chairman

GORDON BUNSHAFT

ALINE B. SAARINEN

BURNHAM KELLY

HIDEO SASAKI

THEODORE ROSZAK

JOHN CARL WARNECKE

LINTON R. WILSON, Secretary

5 June 1964

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Boutin:

The Commission of Fine Arts met with the architects of Federal Office Building No. 5 on May 20 and we are encouraged by the progress they are making in the revised designs. It appears that the new arrangement of buildings is going to work out very well.

A number of suggestions were discussed with the architects and I am enclosing a copy of these remarks in the event they may wish to refer back to them in detail.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,



William Walton
Chairman

Mr. Bernard Boutin
Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit A

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

WILLIAM WALTON, Chairman

GORDON BUNSHAFT

ALINE B. SAARINEN

BURNHAM KELLY

HIDEO SASAKI

THEODORE ROSZAK

JOHN CARL WARNECKE

LINTON R. WILSON, Secretary

5 June 1964

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON

Dear General Duke:

At its meeting on 20 May the Commission of Fine Arts met with the architects of the proposed library at 24th and L Sts., N.W. to review a new design. The Commission was encouraged with the changes to the plans and believes that the informal working sessions that were held with the architects and a member of the Commission have proved helpful in this case.

The Commission made a number of additional suggestions concerning the architectural details and if they can be incorporated into the final drawings, the design will be approved.

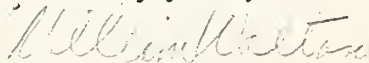
These included:

- . Incorporation of vertical louver motif into structural system as precast elements flush with roof and second floor line.
- . Treatment of north elevation with same second floor elements as other elevations.
- . Relocation of chimney within the building mass.
- . Carrying high window of first floor entirely around building. Panels could incorporate opaque glass where necessary on north elevation.
- . Review planting plan in public space.

The Commission will be glad to schedule a resubmission of the design at the meeting on 23-24 June if the architect is ready at that time.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,



William Walton
Chairman

Brigadier General Charles M. Duke
Engineer Commissioner
District Building, Washington, DC

Exhibit B

MR. WARNECKE: I don't think this is going to be too bad. Most school districts have had to go through this evolution.

MR. PURCELL: We tried to follow through on these projects in accordance with what the requirements are, with the budget drawn which is presented to Congress, and it's approved by the School Board prior to this and after that, the architect is given the responsibility to design, modify the thing slightly to accommodate the same facilities.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Excuse me, everybody. We have a large group waiting for us. We will come back to this problem. We can't finish it now, if you will forgive us.

MR. WARNECKE: I think we should meet again. We would like to go into the whole problem, but we just can't at the moment.

- - -

CHAIRMAN WALTON: We're sorry there aren't more members of our Commission present.

MR. BIDDLE: How many members are present?

CHAIRMAN WALTON: We have four members present.

Mr. Roszak, the sculptor member, was here yesterday, but was unable to stay.

MR. BIDDLE: May I go ahead, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Indeed.

MR. BIDDLE: Now, Mr. Chairman, before going into

Exhibit C

the merits of the monument, I will have to make a record of my objection to the Chairman sitting in this case.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: I understand.

MR. BIDDLE: I am not going to ask the Commission to reverse itself. I think that they were very loyal to the Chairman, which is quite expected and proper that they should back him. But I am going to ask the Chairman voluntarily to relieve the Commission of the responsibility, of this accusation having been made that this is a pre-judged matter, which I think the public generally thinks, or everyone I have talked to, about the matter, says to me, "Oh, well, this is decided." I think that he might wish to relieve the Commission, so that he would be like Caesar's wife, above suspicion, and the Commission not be criticized for it.

I don't know how many members of the Commission have read this article in the New York Times.

One member? Have you seen it, sir?

MR. WARNECKE: I have read it.

MR. BIDDLE: I won't read it, of course; it's too long. But I will simply call your attention to one specific thing he said. This is with respect to the Roosevelt Memorial:

"But miracles are hard to achieve by committee or legislative act, or even by the artful design of one man. The most recent example of

failure in this field is the competition for a memorial to Franklin D. Roosevelt. By Act of Congress, a site was offered in Washington's West Potomac Park, not far from the Capital's great monuments, and a nation-wide contest was organized.

"From more than 500 entries the patient judges chose as the winner a design that would have raised five giant slabs of irregular size."

Now it is perfectly clear, I think, we all would agree on that, that the Chairman of the Commission was pretty strongly opposed to the first design. The use of the word "slabs" instead of stele, I think, quoted all of those critics who were so critical of the thing. The other members of the commission that I have talked to about this, and I have talked only to Mr. Rowe and Congressman Keogh, both of whom were at the meeting of the Commission which I missed last fall -- both of them feel as I do. I'm not impugning the Chairman's intention in any way and whether his construction of his words or mine is right is really irrelevant.

The fact is, what kind of impression did this statement make on those who were interested in the design; when you talk about the public, I don't mean a large public, of course. I think the impression has been a very bad one, but

once the question has been raised, it seems to me that the Chairman might consider, reconsider his position. You probably know that he has had a letter from Mr. Keogh, in which Mr. Keogh objects politely but pretty firmly to the Chairman's statement and all of the other persons to whom I have talked share the same feeling.

Having said that, I am now going to ask to put on record the paragraph I have marked. It is comparatively brief.

MR. WARNECKE: Did you read both paragraphs?

MR. BIDDLE: I wanted to save time, but let me read them.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Let's incorporate them in the record.

MR. WARNECKE: You ought to read the two you object to.

MR. BIDDLE: I read the first paragraph.

"But miracles are hard to achieve by committee or legislative act, or even by the artful design of one man. The most recent example of failure in this field is the competition for a memorial to Franklin D. Roosevelt. By Act of Congress, a site was offered in Washington's Upper West Potomac Park, not far from the Capital's great monuments, and a nation-wide contest was organized.

"From more than 500 entries the patient judges chose as the winner a design that would have raised five giant slabs of irregular size, inscribed with words from F.D.R.'s speeches.

Those slabs are also, you will note, the second design.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: That is not in the quote. Let's keep it clear. Finish the quote for the record.

MR. BIDDLE: I now re-quote:

"A storm of bitter public protest rose immediately. One critic called the slabs 'instant Stonehenge.' The Commission of Fine Arts, which must pass on all monuments in the District of Columbia, refused approval on the ground that the balance and harmony of the monumental area would be upset by the intrusion of such high-rising slabs. Congress upheld the Commission's position and, as things stand now, the winning design probably will never be built, at least not in Washington."

CHAIRMAN WALTON: That is end quote.

MR. BIDDLE: End quote.

Now I would like to put on record my letter to Mr. Walton of March 23, in which I raised objection in writing. Would you like to read this letter?

CHAIRMAN WALTON: They have all read it, and we

will incorporate it in the record.

(The letter referred to follows:)

"March 23, 1964

"Mr. William Walton
Commission of Fine Arts
7000 Interior Dept. Building
Washington, D. C.

"Dear Mr. Walton:

"You stated in an article in the New York Times Magazine for Sunday, March 15, in connection with the design for a memorial to President Franklin D. Roosevelt that on the competition, that the winning design will probably never be built, at least not in Washington.

"At the time you made the statement the architects of the design, Pedersen and Tilney of New York, were engaged, at your request, in making a 'modification' of the design, in accordance with the Resolution of Congress adopted October 18, 1962, and as a result of a meeting of your Commission on October 15, 1963. Congressman Eugene J. Keogh and Mr. James E. Rowe, members of the Memorial Commission, and representatives of Pedersen and Tilney, appeared at the meeting, and took part in an extended discussion with members of the Commission, with respect to possible modifications. On October 15th you wrote me: 'After lengthy discussion and a tour of the proposed site, the Fine Arts Commission decided that it would be willing to consider a revision which reduced the monument's scale.'

"The architects are now working on such a revision. Our Commission has authorized me to expend \$10,000 for this work, and the architects have agreed to pay for the balance of the estimate expenditure, without any profit to them. The design, with accompany photographs and models, will be ready to submit at the May meeting of the Fine Arts Commission; and Mr. Linton R. Wilson, secretary of the Fine Arts Commission, has advised me that a hearing has been scheduled for that meeting.

"Your statement that the winning design will never be built is a declaration that you have already made up your mind, and is therefore so prejudicial to a fair reconsideration of the altered design that I must ask you to absent yourself from the meeting, and to take no part in the Commission's further discussions with respect to the design.

"If you are not willing to do this I shall ask it again at the meeting of the Commission; and in case my request is not granted, shall be forced to make an immediate statement for the public record.

"Will you give this your thoughtful consideration, and let me know your decision as soon as possible? For the good name of the Fine Arts Commission, and the immense importance of its work, I hope that you will take the course I have suggested.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Francis Biddle

Chairman,

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
Commission

MR. BIDDLE: Then I'd like to also offer in evidence, Mr. Walton's reply to that letter, dated May 14.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: It will be incorporated.

(The letter referred to follows:)

"14 May 1964

"Dear Mr. Biddle:

"Your letter of March 23, 1964 was presented to the Commission of Fine Arts at its April meeting and thoroughly discussed by all members present.

"The consensus was that you had misinterpreted the two sentences quoted from my article in the New York Times. Those sentences clearly referred, the Commission thought, to the original memorial design which was rejected by the Commission on February 21, 1962. The sentences did not refer to any future design which may be submitted for this Commission's consideration.

"The Commission wishes to assure you and all your colleagues that it will give completely fair and unbiased consideration to any new proposals which you may wish to bring forward.

"With best wishes,

/s/ William Walton
William Walton
Chairman

"Mr. Francis Biddle
Chairman
Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission
1669 31st Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007"

MR. BIDDLE: Now, I think I would like very much to have Mr. Rowe say what he thinks about this whole situation. He was at the other meeting.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: All right, we'll be glad to hear from Mr. Rowe.

MR. ROWE: Gentlemen, I support the Chairman on this. Mr. Walton knows my views; I wrote him. I have seen the Commission's reply. I have seen nothing in the reply of the Commission to make me change my mind.

MR. BIDDLE: Now, Mr. Chairman, that is all that I have to say about it. Has your view changed at all about this matter? I am appealing to you personally now.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: I recognize your appeal. I have held from the beginning that you have misunderstood my written remarks. I was referring to the first design very clearly. The Commission has in a group re-read the two quotations and agreed with me that I was clearly referring to the first design and not to any design that is now being submitted to us or which will be submitted to us.

With the full support of my Commission, I decline to disqualify myself and assure the Memorial Commission that it

will get a very free, unbiased public hearing on this design or any other design that is presented to us.

MR. BIDDLE: Let me say, Mr. Chairman, I never questioned that with respect to you for a moment. I am simply speaking on what has happened in the public feeling about this and what will be the reaction on the Commission.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: I think we have both clarified our positions and suggest we go ahead with the presentation.

MR. BIDDLE: I will say very little about this and ask Mr. Pedersen and his associates to bear the brunt of the presentation. Would you like these small maps to follow?

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Well, we are pretty familiar with this; we have looked at the site, the new models that came yesterday afternoon.

MR. BIDDLE: I say that chiefly because this was designed, really, with a view to incorporating the four monuments, if this one were built, into one big design. I think it's important to remember that in the approach to the thing.

One other thing I'll hand around without referring to; since none of the members of the Commission were present at the testimony of the former Commission, I am going to simply hand round a memorandum of the statements of some of the most prominent architects of the country, of whom Phil Johnson and others testified before the Commission.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL

CREDIT LINE: Pedersen, Tilney, Hoberman, Wasserman, Beer - The F.D.R. Memorial Architects.

William F. Pedersen AIA, Architect
Bradford S. Tilney AIA, Architect
Norman Hoberman AIA, Associate Architect and Sculptor
Joseph Wasserman AIA, Associate Architect
David Beer, Associate Architect

The redesign of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial was done under the supervision of William F. Pedersen. The form of the Memorial is the work of Norman Hoberman, with the participation in the architectural and site aspects of the design by the other members of the team.

STATEMENT ON REDESIGN:

The redesign of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial was done to comply with two requests: First was the requirement of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission to have a statue of President Roosevelt included within the Memorial. The second was the request of the Fine Arts Commission that the architects restudy the design in relation to the scale of the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials.

While the basic concept of the original design is the same, the inclusion of the Roosevelt statue required a change in the placing of the vertical elements and the spaces between them. In the original design, these elements were arranged to contain a series of spaces through which people moved; in the new design a central space, scaled specifically to the statue, acts as a hub from which the vertical elements radiate.

The height of the Memorial has been lowered so that the top of the highest stele is below the top elevation of the Lincoln Memorial. This has been done in order to avoid interrupting the horizontal character of the monuments, buildings and landscape along the north side of the Potomac River.

The following quotation from the architects' original statement remains pertinent to the new design:

"Our concept of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial was molded by two factors. The first was the site with its very specific relationships to monumental Washington; the second was the need to provide a memorial in contemporary terms.

Exhibit D

"The site, located between two strong and imposing monuments, the Jefferson Memorial to the east and the Lincoln Memorial to the west, demanded a form different in character from its neighbors. We felt that another closed, inward-looking structure would lessen the impact of the adjacent memorials. Since there is not, at present, an adequate pedestrian route between the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials we wished our design to provide this circulation and make a series of spatial sequences linking the existing memorials. We also felt that our memorial had to work with the existing landscape features: the Tidal Basin with its surrounding cherry trees to the north, the Potomac River to the south, and the large mature trees which form an oval about the site. We wanted it to be visible and have a meaningful scale for pedestrians in the immediate environment, for automobiles as they circulate around Washington, and, importantly, from the air.

"Our major task was the creation of a new memorial which was contemporary in expression, personal to the memory of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and complementary to the Washington landscape. The problem of a contemporary expression was given much consideration. One must be aware that, while the Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial and Washington Monument most appropriately commemorate these great presidents, they do so in spite of and in contradiction to the original significance of their respective building forms. The Washington Monument is a form whose original use was to record the conquests and achievements of the most absolute monarchs of all times -- the Egyptian kings. Again, both the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials derive from Classical Greek and Roman prototypes.

"We conceived the memorial to be composed of a series of vertical elements or steles set into the landscape. Inscribed upon them are quotations from the writings and speeches of Franklin Delano Roosevelt which express his great ideals. The steles are turned back into each other at the base to form a series of spaces on different levels through which the visitor freely circulates. The specific form, number, and arrangement of the steles were determined by the nature, quality and sequence of the spaces we desired. It is our intent to so involve the viewer in this spatial sequence as to create a memorable experience in which his awareness of the ideals expressed by the inscriptions is greatly enhanced. The size and height of the steles were determined by our desire to have them relate in size and scale to the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials. We wished them to be seen in the landscape above the trees, but did not want them to be so high as to compete with the one dominant vertical form in the landscape, the Washington Monument.

"The landscape and site development was designed to heighten the experience of approaching the memorial and to provide a fitting setting for it. Great care was exercised to preserve the existing landscape features, particularly the cherry trees and large elms. Earth mounds screen the memorial on the east and west. The major western approach is over a gentle rise. This serves to block the view and control the approach to the base of the memorial until the spectator is close enough to deal with the form in the immediate landscape.

"In conclusion we wish to state that we believe that the memorial we have designed:

- (1) provides a site solution that complements monumental Washington;
- (2) creates a unique and memorable experience for visitors to the site, a landmark for the city's inhabitants, and a symbol for the nation;
- (3) is democratic in its accessibility from all sides, its openness, and the human scale of its spaces; and
- (4) is appropriate as a personal memorial because of the integral quality of the inscriptions containing the essential spirit of the thoughts and ideas of the great social and humane programs of Franklin Delano Roosevelt."

will get a very free, unbiased public hearing on this design or any other design that is presented to us.

MR. BIDDLE: Let me say, Mr. Chairman, I never questioned that with respect to you for a moment. I am simply speaking on what has happened in the public feeling about this and what will be the reaction on the Commission.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: I think we have both clarified our positions and suggest we go ahead with the presentation.

MR. BIDDLE: I will say very little about this and ask Mr. Pedersen and his associates to bear the brunt of the presentation. Would you like these small maps to follow?

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Well, we are pretty familiar with this; we have looked at the site, the new models that came yesterday afternoon.

MR. BIDDLE: I say that chiefly because this was designed, really, with a view to incorporating the four monuments, if this one were built, into one big design. I think it's important to remember that in the approach to the thing.

One other thing I'll hand around without referring to; since none of the members of the Commission were present at the testimony of the former Commission, I am going to simply hand round a memorandum of the statements of some of the most prominent architects of the country, of whom Phil Johnson and others testified before the Commission.

Exhibit E

Let me say one other thing, and then I'm through. I think that this should be remembered in any close question. Of course I realize that under the law, the Fine Arts Commission has final approval in matters of this kind. It is not merely a matter of approval or disapproval. It is not a matter of shutting out the memorial necessarily, but the way this was done should, I think, be a significant reason for approving this, unless there is very strong feeling against it. This was done on the very highest level, under the Congress, and it won't encourage Congress, I think, to do this. In other words, to have a first-rate committee to choose this site, the top committee, a top jury headed by Pietro Belluschi to approve the winning design certainly comes with a good deal of power for you in considering this. Everybody can disagree.

Now, having said that, I think Mr. Pedersen could start with developing his ideas.

MR. PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, we have here an architect's statement and some photographs of some which are for your files; if members of the Commission should want to have copies we'd be glad to give them to them.

I want to say that we appreciate very much being here and having, if you will, a second crack at this problem of approval; and we will go on from there.

Redesign of the memorial is based on the solution

of two problems. The first is a reconsideration of the scale of the memorial to relate it to the Lincoln and Jefferson, tree line, and other aspects of that particular area of Washington.

I believe the solution has been made clear in the photographs and the models.

The second aspect of the redesign is the incorporation of a statue of the President, which was requested by the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission, which has made necessary considerable change in the dynamics of the memorial. Again, here, I believe, the presentation to a great degree speaks for itself.

I am going to ask my associate, Norman Hoberman, to run through the models and the photographs for you quickly. I know you looked at them yesterday, and then we're available to answer any questions you may have.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Good. Proceed.

MR. HOBERMAN: I would just like to put up the drawings.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Mr. Atherton, will you help?

MR. HOBERMAN: By way of introduction, in our redesign, we have kept the same character of elements which we had in our first design. The redesign has changed the sequence and the character of the spaces between the vertical

elements in order to develop the space of such character that the statue of the President, President Roosevelt, could sit within the memorial. At the same time, we considered the experience of a person who moves through the memorial, as well as the experience of a person as he pauses to read the inscriptions.

We believe our presentation here is self-explanatory. We have tried very hard in both the photographs and the models to show the new memorial in relationship to all the other aspects of Washington. We have tried to show it as to what it looks like as a memorial in itself, and we've further tried to show it as to what the experience of a person who is moving through it would be. We have done this from the air, as well as from the ground.

All I'd like to do, basically, is go through and identify each of the photographs and then throw it open for any question you may have.

We can start with the drawing of the Jefferson Memorial. We have here the Jefferson Memorial (indicating on sketch), the proposed EHR memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial. The basic disposition of site elements throughout this area that were closed previously have been carried over into the new design.

The area with which we would be concerned is the

same 26 acres, in fact, we were talking about previously.

We have also shown the new memorial in a section taken through the site, this way (indicating), to show the relationship between a person standing on the other side of the Potomac, the height of the new memorial, height of the Lincoln Memorial shown in the distance, and the height of the Washington Monument.

A second section is taken through the Potomac River which shows the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument in the distance, proposed FDR memorial and the Jefferson Memorial. We have lowered the height of the highest element of the Roosevelt Memorial to elevation 138.9.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: This is from the water line?

MR. ROBERMAN: From the water line, yes, sir. It is one foot below actually the Lincoln Memorial plus or minus.

MR. BURSHAFT: How much did you lower it from what it was?

MR. ROBERMAN: It was 167 from the ground.

MR. BURSHAFT: Do the subtracting for me.

MR. ROBERMAN: That is 37 feet. The change of dimension of the highest element. We did not shrink the ground plans as much of necessity to leave sufficient plaza space for people to move through it, so that the relationship throughout the redesign is not the same as it was in the

previous design.

MR. BUNCHART: Which design do you like better, the first one or the second one?

MR. HOBBSMAN: I like the second one better, but -- that's a peculiar question. I believe in addition to everything else, we have done, we have solved several of the architectural problems we had in the first design, or are starting to solve them. Our attitude towards this is were we successful with this Commission, in the future we'd continue to restudy every element of it again, in every scale, and we are perfectly aware we have done what we could within the time and available funds, but by no means would we consider this is the end of our consideration of design.

This is a photograph taken from Arlington Cemetery showing the Jefferson, Lincoln and proposed memorial.

This photograph shows the view of the new memorial from the Potomac River, actually a viewpoint from a boat that was in the river itself.

Here is a photograph taken from the Jefferson Memorial side of the site, from a very low area.

We have shown the general position and size of a proposed statue of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Again, this was done for architectural considerations exclusively. It was to show the character of the space and the way in which

such a statue could sit. It would be anticipated when the final sculptor for the statue were chosen, we would collaborate with him in terms of integration of the statue with the memorial.

In this photograph, as you can see, which is also the view from the place where the busses would stop, the statue would be silhouetted against the landscape and one goes through an experience of seeing the statue very clearly, but then turning away from it to get onto a variety of experience as you move through.

This photograph is again from the Potomac side but in quite close to the memorial, giving somewhat more the impression of what the memorial would appear to a visitor who is quite close to it.

This photograph is a composite photograph showing an aerial photograph taken from the Tidal Basin, from quite far away. It is rather self-explanatory.

This particular photograph which is not very clear, because we had to use prints but it's a photograph taken from the top of the Washington Monument itself, showing the new memorial on its site.

This was a photograph taken from the other side of the Potomac River, which shows the Lincoln Memorial in this position, the Washington Monument back here, and you can just

pick up the height of the Jefferson Memorial behind the trees. The tree line that one gets along the existing roads, and these are existing trees at a height of about 80 feet above the ground, so that the maximum projection of the highest element above the trees would be somewhere in the neighborhood of 50 feet. It's 130 feet above ground, and that's the 80 feet of the memorial.

Here we see a photograph of the memorial, the statue of Franklin D. Roosevelt from the general orientation of the Jefferson Memorial part of the site. This is a photograph taken within the memorial itself, looking at the statue of Roosevelt and the elements around it; and finally, we have a photograph of the memorial taken across the Tidal Basin, looking directly at it which would be the view one would get from the other side as one walked around to each of the memorials that sit on it.

Behind Chairman Walton is a photograph that was taken directly on the site itself, looking from the Potomac River part of the site where one is actually sitting, within the land of the site.

I believe that concludes everything we have. I think the two models speak for themselves.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Well, we wish all the presentations were as beautifully done, which come before us, as this one. It's a marvellous presentation -- the photographs, the

quality, angles are among the best we have ever seen. I think the Commission would agree.

MR. HOBBERMAN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Do you have specific questions, Mr. Kelly, of dimensions?

MR. KELLY: No.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Were any of the stele reshaped in the redesign?

MR. PEDERSEN: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: As we studied this, we did not have the old model, you see, to check back on. We were curious about what reshaping was done.

MR. PEDERSEN: Well, there has been reshaping; it's of a subtle nature and quite hard to identify. You realize they are in different positions.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: We could tell that, but we didn't know where they were.

MR. HOBBERMAN: There's no element which is the same as on the previous design.

MR. WARNECKE: Are there more or less or is it the same number of elements?

MR. HOBBERMAN: There are the same number of elements. We started from our basic analysis of what we had to do to incorporate the statue of Franklin D. Roosevelt, and it was

taking that as a cue, and working with what we felt were the best elements we had on the previous design that we came up with the new design. They have changed radically.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Yes.

MR. HOBERMAN: We do have with us the original model at the small scale which we could leave with the Commission.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: I think it would be very useful to us. Everybody asked this question yesterday, as we went over it and we searched our memories as to how it went. Or would you rather we didn't look at it?

MR. PEDERSEN: I was about to say --

MR. WARNECKE: I think every detail bears on this.

MR. BIDDLE: May I ask a question?

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Yes, go ahead.

MR. BIDDLE: Does it cover the same area of ground as the other?

MR. HOBERMAN: Not quite. The area of ground is slightly smaller than it was before.

MR. BIDDLE: Slightly? What does that mean?

MR. HOBERMAN: The basic dimensions were 320 feet, end to end, previously; we are somewhere around 280 now. It has gotten slightly smaller, but with the change of design instead of having these elements sitting around to contain

space, we now have central space from which the elements radiate and hence in terms of a section, proportion of height to width, it is somewhat more open than previously.

MR. BIDDLE: How does the width of the stele compare with the width of the old?

MR. HOBBSMAN: Right now they're in the neighborhood, the smaller elements are in the neighborhood of 48-49 feet; the larger elements, 52 feet.

MR. WARNECKE: What were they previously?

MR. HOBBSMAN: The largest element was 60-some odd feet. I don't have the exact number.

MR. KELLY: How about thickness?

MR. HOBBSMAN: In the previous design, the element at the top was 3-1/2 feet thick, and at the base it got to be 7 feet thick. In the new design, the tops of them vary from element to element, but their average is about 4 feet and at the base, they are somewhat in the neighborhood of 5 or 6. What we discovered, again, as we worked on it, was that we have allowed considerably more for the foreshortening of the ground plan that occurs when a person actually walks through the site, than we previously did, so that, as I'm sure you're aware, the vertical element simply is considerably stronger, as from the viewpoint of a person with his eyes at 5-1/2 feet than is the ground plan which one has a tendency to look at from above. Again we tried to put the models at

about acutaly eye level to emphasize this.

MR. WARNECKE: What scale is the statue? That is a new element now. What human scale?

MR. HOBERMAN: Three times life-size.

MR. PEDERSEN: Approximately the same as the Jefferson.

MR. BIDDLE: That is 18 feet?

MR. HOBERMAN: Yes, it's the same height as the Jefferson figure, in relation to --

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Mr. Bunshaft, do you have any questions?

MR. BUNSHAFT: No.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Do you want to say a word about the building materials? Nothing has been said about that to this membership, and it might be apropos.

MR. PEDERSEN: Well, on the subject of building material, we always felt that the memorial should be done in concrete, and I would emphasize again that we're talking about cast concrete and not old fashioned concrete with all its unfortunate connotations. How the concrete would be finished is aggregate; it's the color of the cement that goes into it. We would intend to set up a great number of samples and studies and so on, which we'd expect the memorial commission and the Fine Arts Commission would participate in the looking at this.

I have had very good experience recently in a sand blasted concrete which removes all the imperfections of construction, but I would emphasize this is an area of sample study where we would want you all to be in on it.

MR. KELLY: The same with the lettering?

MR. PEDERSEN: The same with the lettering.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: And the statue.

MR. PEDERSEN: Well, the statue, Judge Biddle has felt the statue might be the subject of a competition but beyond that, I don't know; but obviously whatever the competition, or whoever the sculptor is, would have to work very closely with us in whatever he did.

MR. KELLY: You are assuming bronze?

MR. PEDERSEN: I think the sculptor will have something to say about that.

MR. HORNEMAN: We are assuming material basically different from the material used in the memorial.

MR. BIDDLE: I had in mind, incidentally, competition, though it had not been decided by the Commission, a small closed competition, rather than a wide open one.

MR. HORNEMAN: May I add one footnote on material and lettering? We're aware we are in an area where a great deal of actual size study must be done before we actually build this. Our objective here is to stress the monolithic character

of the vertical elements, and it's for this reason we are developing a system of casting this and controlled aggregate and controlled cement.

Again, as far as the lettering is concerned, I believe this ultimately would become a very major portion of the design but it's to emphasize the quietness of the surface, the integrity of the surface of the vertical element and we tried very hard in this model to go and keep the letters such that they would not violate the surface, but again would have their own life and this is one area we've not had the time to go into.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Good. Well, if there are no more questions, we propose to keep the models and photographs, if we may, particularly for our missing members to see. Unfortunately, I think Mr. Sasaki, who as a contestant, is not participating at all, but Mrs. Saarinen and Mr. Roszak both want very much to see it. Mr. Roszak did see the models late yesterday afternoon, but didn't see all the other material, so if it is all right with you, we would like to keep the materials and we will get them here as soon as we can, on their own personal schedules, and we will take it under advisement very seriously and we will all consider it in depth, we assure you.

We thank you for the presentation.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

WILLIAM WALTON, Chairman

GORDON BUNSHAFT

ALINE B. SAARINEN

BURNHAM KELLY

HIDEO SASAKI

THEODORE ROSZAK

JOHN CARL WARNECKE

LINTON R. WILSON, Secretary

9 June 1964

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON

Dear Captain Enger:

I am writing to confirm the recommendations that were made at the Commission of Fine Arts meeting on 20 May regarding the design of the Sector Focusing Cyclotron at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory.

The Commission believes that the masses of the cyclotron area and the administrative areas should be separated into two clearly defined forms. These areas would still be linked together to provide the necessary circulation, but would be treated as contrasting elements in the design; the mass housing the technical equipment as a solid block, and the administrative wing in a more open manner with large areas of glass. This contrast would be further heightened by the use of a single textured concrete treatment throughout the exterior of the cyclotron building.

The Commission believes these changes would considerably improve the appearance of this project and could be incorporated into the design without delaying it. In addition the revised building will be easier to build and as a result may prove less costly.

The next meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts is scheduled for 24 June, and we would be glad to review any drawings the architect may have ready at that time.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Captain W.M. Enger
Area Public Works Officer,
Chesapeake
Bldg. 57, U.S. Naval Station
Washington, D.C. 20390

Exhibit F

